

A NEW SPECIES OF *APHANACTIS* (ASTERACEAE: HELIANTHEAE;
GALINSOGINAE), FROM OAXACA, MÉXICO

B.L. Turner

Department of Botany, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78713 U.S.A.

ABSTRACT

A new species, *Aphanactis macdonaldii* B. Turner, from Cerro Quiexobra, 3650-3800 m, Oaxaca, México is described and illustrated. The genus was previously unknown to México. The species is notable for its large heads with bright yellow rays, unlike any previously described species.

KEY WORDS: *Aphanactis*, Asteraceae, Heliantheae, systematics, México, Oaxaca.

Routine identification of a remarkable assemblage of species belonging to the Asteraceae collected by Dr. Andrew McDonald from the subalpine region of Cerro Quiexobra (3650-3800 m) resulted in the description of seven new species from that peak alone (Nesom, in prep.; Turner, in prep.). The most remarkable discovery has been the present species, which is placed in *Aphanactis*, the first report for that genus from México, although two species are known from Central America (Turner 1980).

Aphanactis macdonaldii B. Turner, *sp. nov.*, Figure 1. TYPE: MÉXICO. Oaxaca: 35 km ESE of Miahuatlán, 5 km NE of Santo Domingo Ozolotepec, Cerro Quiexobra and vicinity, 3650-3800 m (16° 10' N, 96° 15' W), timberline vegetation in open glades along ridges and in mountain saddles, 10 Dec 1989, *Andrew McDonald 2904* (HOLOTYPE: TEX; Isotype: MEXU).

Aphanactis obtusatae (S.F. Blake) B. Turner similis sed foliis majoribus plerumque basalibus et capitulis majoribus ligulis luteis profunde 3-lobatis differt.

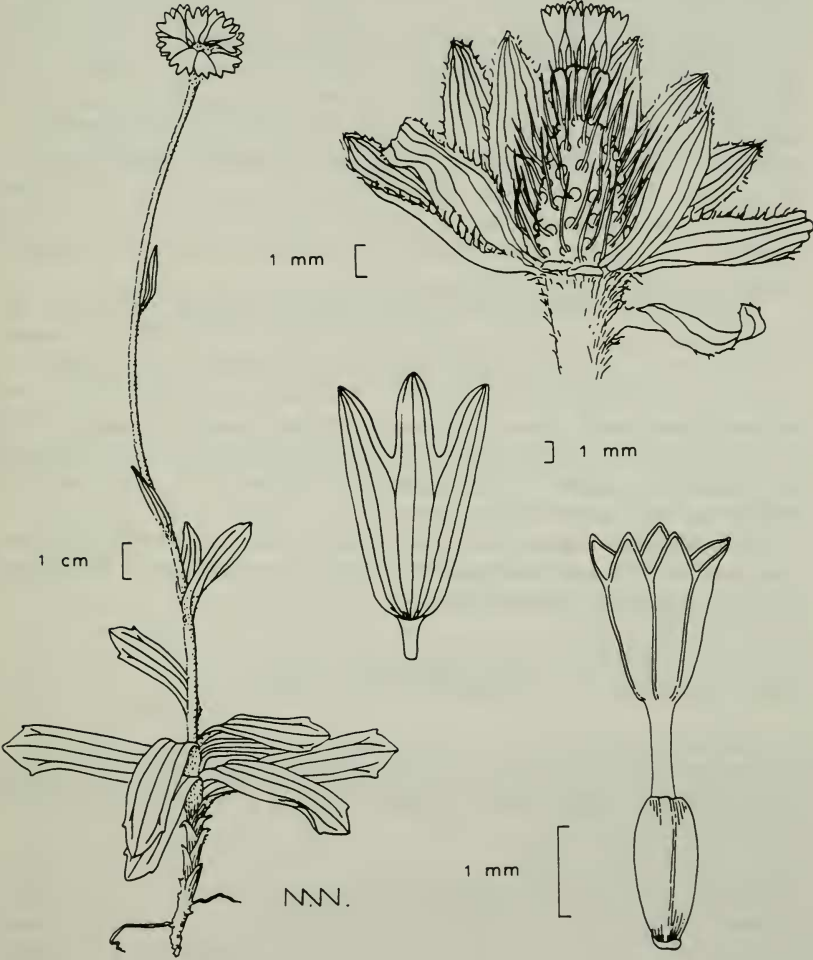


Fig. 1. *Aphanactis macdonaldii*, from holotype.

Perennial, nearly scapose, herbs 15-25 cm high, the stems erect and arising from relatively thick lateral rhizomes. Lowermost leaves mostly opposite, sessile, linear-oblongate, much reduced and remote along the upper portion of the stem, the blades with 3-7 nearly parallel nerves, moderately hirsutulous throughout, the apices 3 lobed or not. Heads hemispheric, ca 3 cm wide across the extended rays, borne singly on nearly leafless scapes 5-20 cm long. Involucres 9-11 mm high, the bracts ovate-elliptical, mostly subequal in 2-3 series, pilose like the peduncles. Receptacle broadly conical, the chaff filiform. Ray florets 11-13, pistillate, fertile, the ligules bright yellow, deeply 3 lobed, ca 15 mm long, 7-9 mm wide, the tube ca 2.5 mm long, pubescent. Disk florets numerous, the corollas yellow, the tube pubescent, ca 1 mm long, the limb glabrous, ca 2 mm long with 5 lobes ca 0.5 mm long. Achenes ca 3 mm long, obovate, 5 ribbed, black, glabrous, epappose.

The species is remarkable for its large heads with bright yellow rays. Indeed, it is so distinct from the other species in habit that I originally thought it might belong to *Selloa* (which it superficially resembles) or else might represent an undescribed genus. Detailed comparison of the heads, florets and achenes with those of *Aphanactis*, however, strongly suggests that it goes with or near that genus. So positioned, the characters of the genus are expanded to include large, yellow, 3 lobed ligules (vs single and white or pinkish) and disk florets with rather tubular throats.

It is a pleasure to name this remarkable species for its remarkable collector, Dr. Andrew McDonald, avid student of the alpine vegetation of México and expert on the family Convolvulaceae.

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LITERATURE CITED

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